

Secret

Executive Registry

10-637



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

JAN 29 1958

Dear Allen:

There is enclosed a copy of a memorandum dated December 11, 1957 from General Cutler to me, enclosing a letter from Mr. Hoover which indicates CIA - FBI agreement that provided no reciprocal radio agreements are sought with Soviet bloc countries, the remainder of the proposed program would be feasible.

This Department is agreeable to such a proviso and has informed General Cutler to that effect, recommending that the proposed legislation be submitted. Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum I have sent General Cutler to this effect.

Sincerely,

Bm

Robert Murchy
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Copy Memorandum
from General Cutler.
2. Copy Memorandum
to General Cutler.

The Honorable
Allen Dulles,
Director,

Central Intelligence Agency.

FBI REVIEW
COMPLETED
DOS and NSC review(s) completed.

Approved For Release 2005/04/28 : CIA-RDP80B01676R004300100005-1

Secret

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1958

1/17/58

ILLEGIB

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert Murphy
Deputy Under Secretary of State

Subject: International Diplomatic Communications
(Proposed Legislation to Permit Reciprocal
Radio Agreements)

In connection with our telephone conversation of yesterday relative to legislation for reciprocal radio agreements, I enclose a copy of the letter from the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (Mr. Hoover) dated December 11, 1957.

The last paragraph of this letter indicates that if this legislation for reciprocal radio agreements is enacted, the position of the FBI would be that no reciprocal agreements would be entered into with Soviet bloc countries as a matter of principle but that possibly exceptions might be made in those cases subject to thorough review of internal security factors. It is this paragraph that leads White House legislative people to suggest that the chances of passage of the legislation in a way useful for the purposes you seek would be slight.

Let me hear from you when you have come to a conclusion on this matter.

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Robert Cutler
Special Assistant
to the President

Enclosure

SECRET

SECRET

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington 25, D. C.

December 11, 1957

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Cutler:

Reference is made to your memoranda of May 29, October 1, and December 4, 1957, concerning the proposal for legislation to permit reciprocal radio agreements. As you will recall, this proposal was the subject of discussion at the White House on May 29, 1957, at which time I stated the position of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) concerning it. I pointed out that I was not objecting to the legislation, nor was I endorsing it, but that I considered it my responsibility to invite attention to its possible effect upon internal security.

My representatives and those of the Director of Central Intelligence have subsequently met on several occasions and discussed this matter in considerable detail. The Central Intelligence Agency has stressed the vital need of expanding its communications system abroad in order to adequately handle intelligence problems which may arise in emergency situations. The IIC has pointed out the internal security factors which exist and which undoubtedly will continue.

As a result of these discussions, we have agreed that, as a general principle, reciprocal radio agreements should not be sought with Soviet bloc countries. We agreed that in the event future developments indicate a need for agreements in such areas, the internal security factors should be thoroughly reviewed prior to initiating any agreement. It is believed that the foregoing, if implemented in practice, would reduce the security factors which were the subject of our concern, and, consequently, the remainder of the proposed program for the establishment of reciprocal radio agreements would be feasible.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Edgar Hoover

Chairman
Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference

SECRET

JAN 29 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL ROBERT CUTLER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: International Diplomatic Communications

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 17 under cover of which you transmitted a copy of Mr. Hoover's letter dated December 11, 1957.

It is noted that FBI and CIA representatives have now reached agreement that if reciprocal radio agreements are not sought with Soviet bloc countries at present, the rest of the program would be feasible. In the light of this resolution of differences between the two agencies, and the agreed position between State and Defense as set forth in my memorandum of November 21, 1957, it would appear that the proposed legislation could be supported by all the agencies concerned. The Soviet bloc countries do not present an immediate problem from our point of view; on the contrary our most critical needs are in other countries.

The Department of State, therefore, accepts the conditions stated in Mr. Hoover's letter under reference and recommends submission of the proposed legislation to the Congress in the belief that under these circumstances it would have the support of all concerned and thus have good prospects for approval. Should the legislation be enacted, we would of course agree that the concurrence of the FBI and other interested agencies would be necessary before we entered into any agreement with a specific country for reciprocal communications rights.

Deputy Under Secretary

Concurrence: E/TD - Mr. Black

Copy to: U - Mr. Herter
EUR - Mr. Elbrick
CIA - Mr. Allen Dulles
Defense - Mr. Quarles
H - Mr. Macomber

Honorable Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Cutler:

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 29, October 1, and December 4, 1957, concerning the proposal for legislation to permit reciprocal radio agreements. As you will recall, this proposal was the subject of a discussion at the White House on May 29, 1957, at which time I stated the position of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) concerning it. I pointed out that I was not objecting to the legislation nor was I endorsing it but that I considered it my responsibility to invite attention to its possible effect upon internal security.

My representatives and those of the Director of

Honorable Robert Cutler

the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have met on several occasions and discussed this matter in considerable detail.

CIA has stressed the vital need of expanding its communication system abroad in order to adequately handle intelligence problems which may arise in emergency situations. The IIC has pointed out the internal security factors which exist and which undoubtedly will continue.

As a result of discussions held with CIA representatives, we have agreed that as a general principle reciprocal radio agreements should not be sought with Soviet bloc countries.

In the event future developments indicate a need for agreements in such areas, the internal security factors should be thoroughly reviewed prior to initiating any agreement. It is believed that the foregoing, if implemented in practice, would reduce the security factors which were the subject of our concern.

Consequently the remainder of the program to establish reciprocal radio agreements is not feasible.